

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 331

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Garette E. Lockee
for his dedication and commitment to promoting
the heritage and uniqueness of sporting dogs.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Garette E. "Gary" Lockee is one such estimable Tennessean who is deeply
devoted to his family, his country, and his avocation of sporting dogs and competition; he is a
founding member of the Bird Dog Foundation, whose mission is to preserve the past and protect
the future for sporting dog lovers the world over; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee was recently recognized for his many contributions to bird dog
training, competition, and sport with a life-size bronze bust, which was unveiled during the Field
Trial Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional
who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous
capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee served with acumen and alacrity as a Captain in the United
States Navy, where he earned the respect of his fellow servicemen and superiors alike for the
exemplary quality of his work before taking retirement; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman, sportsman, and animal lover, Mr. Lockee also
evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a resident of La Grange since 1988, Mr. Lockee has also distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his love of his sporting dogs has long fueled his vision of memorializing and sharing the great heritage of these talented animals, especially flushing breeds, pointing breeds, and retrievers; and

WHEREAS, along with other dedicated enthusiasts, Mr. Lockee is a founding member of the Bird Dog Foundation, which is the umbrella organization that houses and operates the National Retriever Museum, the Field Trial Hall of Fame, the National Bird Dog Museum and the Wildlife Heritage Center; and

WHEREAS, serving as President of the organization from 1989 to 2001, he is credited with having authored the foundation's non-profit charter, by-laws, and tax exemption application, all of which gained approval in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee has helped to create an interesting and welcoming museum dedicated to the history of birding by personally laboring for the museum's creation and support, including overseeing construction of four buildings totaling nearly 25,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, traveling to events throughout the nation, he has diligently promoted and raised major funding for the foundation, thereby ensuring operations of the museum, art, education, and library programs for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely generous person who consistently performs remarkable services without pay or reimbursement, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Lockee is fortunate to share love and companionship with his lovely wife, Sally; and

WHEREAS, for his many contributions to the birding and sport dog community, Mr. Lockee was elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lockee is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service and dedication to community that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Garrett E. Lockee, a man of uncommon integrity and relentless vision, for his honorable and astute service to sportsmen and to the good people of Tennessee, congratulate him upon his induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame, and salute his unswerving commitment to preserving and commemorating our common heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.